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This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following is listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and is in a non-English language:

1. WIPO WO 98/02244

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the listed non-English language document, an English-language abstract of the document setting forth the relevance is enclosed. Also, enclosed is an English-language international search report from the European Patent Office citing this document and setting forth the relevance thereof.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please
charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 9, 2002

By: 

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Enclosures
EFC/FPD/sci

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